

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of generating information regarding the quality of performance of a plurality of suppliers that each supply products to a vendor, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) gathering data regarding the quality of performance of the plurality of suppliers ~~in~~ from a plurality of different computer database;

(b) storing the gathered data from the plurality of different computer databases in a central controller;

(c) ~~converting~~ translating the stored data in the central controller into a single database; and

(d) ~~utilizing~~ manipulating the single database to generate information regarding the quality of performance of the plurality of suppliers.

2. (Currently Amended) The method defined in Claim 1 wherein said step (a) is performed by gathering data regarding the quality of performance of the plurality of suppliers in a plurality of different computer databases that are ~~non-compatible~~ incompatible.

3. (Currently Amended) The method defined in Claim 2 wherein said step (c) is performed by ~~converting~~ translating the stored data in the central controller into a single compatible database.

4. (Original) The method defined in Claim 1 wherein said step (a) is performed by gathering data regarding the quality of performance of the plurality of suppliers in real time.

5. (Original) The method defined in Claim 4 wherein said step (b) is performed by storing the gathered data from the plurality of different computer databases in a central controller in near real time.

6. (Currently Amended) The method defined in Claim 5 wherein said step (c) is performed by ~~converting~~ translating the stored data in the central controller into a single database in near real time.

7. (Currently Amended) The method defined in Claim 6 wherein said step (d) is performed by ~~utilizing~~ manipulating the single database to generate information regarding the quality of performance of the plurality of suppliers in near real time.

8. (Original) The method defined in Claim 1 wherein said step (d) is performed by processing the stored data in the single database to create a series of quality metrics and using the series of quality metrics to judge the performance of one or more of the plurality of suppliers.

9. (Original) The method defined in Claim 1 wherein said step (d) is performed by generating the information on a global communication network.

10. (Original) The method defined in Claim 9 wherein said step (d) is performed by providing access to the information on the global communication network to each of the plurality of suppliers.

11. (Original) The method defined in Claim 10 wherein said step (d) is performed by providing limited access to the information on the global communication network to each of the plurality of suppliers.

12. (Original) The method defined in Claim 11 wherein said step (a) is performed by displaying the information on an internet web browser.

13. (Original) The method defined in Claim 1 wherein said step (d) is performed by using a color-coding scheme to display the generated information.

14. (Original) The method defined in Claim 1 wherein said step (a) is performed by generating a non-conforming material report whenever a defective product is supplied to the vendor.

15. (Original) The method defined in Claim 14 wherein said step (d) is performed by transmitting the non-conforming material report to the supplier.

16. (Original) The method defined in Claim 14 wherein said step (d) is performed by requesting a corrective action report from the supplier whenever a non-conforming material report is generated.